

The Close  
Martock  
Somersetshire  
England

(Poole) Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> 1883

My dear Cousin

Yours of the 24<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup>  
duly arrived 29<sup>th</sup> of the 8<sup>th</sup> for which  
please accept my kind thanks &  
also for the pedigree of one branch  
of the Benson family. It certainly  
appears very probable that the  
Melmerby branch sprang from  
the second son of John Benson of Great  
Salkfield. I hope we may be able  
to find out definitely if it was so  
as it would be interesting to trace our  
family to the early age indicated on  
the paper you have sent. I will if  
possible find out from David Benson  
of Southport further particulars which  
may perhaps <sup>be able to</sup> confirm their views  
of our ancestry. I am glad to



be able to say that my Pedigree  
is so far complete that I hope to  
send you a copy by the next mail.  
I am sorry however that it is not  
perfect, having been unable to obtain  
several of the dates.

I thank you for speaking so kindly  
of my family & am thankful to say  
that they are all well, including my  
grandson who is a fine healthy child  
just beginning to walk. My brother  
Samuel's son Herbert has also just  
got a son. I think I told you that  
he had married just previous to his  
last voyage & then that he was laid  
up with fever in Egypt & while  
in this state <sup>was</sup> bitten by Mosquitoes  
which appear to have poisoned the  
blood & produced such ulcers from  
which he did not recover for months  
& though recovered from the wounds  
he is entirely without power  
to stand on the leg which was affected.

It has to walk on crutches & cannot  
but fear he is lame for life. When  
young he was extremely fond of  
walking & would think nothing of  
performing a journey of 30 miles  
on foot without resting. To be laid  
up in this manner must therefore  
be extremely galling to him. He & his  
wife are now living with my brother  
Samuel at Brixton in the suburbs  
of London. Herbert's brother Samuel  
is in partnership with his father  
& has taken the degree L.L.D. They  
have a large practice & my brother  
unlike the generality of Lawyers is  
& thoroughly honest & upright in his  
profession & walks moreover in the  
true fear of God. Our Uncle Joseph's  
second wife was a Miss Gregory  
& it is her niece that my nephew  
Richard d. Gypin has married.  
She is an amiable person & they seem



exceedingly happy.

Our Country is at present fairly prosperous though of course there is a vast amount of misery & thousands are on the borders of starvation. The misery that at times comes before my eyes fills me with deep pain. Ireland is more tranquil than formerly, murders are less common & the law is respected, though it is still necessary to rule the people with a strong hand on account of the wicked agitators who stir <sup>them</sup> up ~~the~~ people to lawless deeds.

We are just now coming to the conclusion of our harvest which has been on the whole abundant though we are afflicted with an immense amount of moisture which has of late been coming down in torrents. There was however beautiful weather for the harvest.

in the south of the country while  
in the northern parts there is a  
large amount of grain still in  
the fields which is being soaked  
& damaged by the rains.

I think it must be the case that  
our seasons are more moist than  
formerly though probably after  
a time there may be a change  
from wet to dry. Agriculture is  
in this country in a very depressed  
condition while in America  
they have splendid seasons  
enormous crops of grain which  
is sent over to England at a low  
cost, <sup>thus reducing the price of wheat</sup> ~~and~~ lower than that  
can be profitably be grown in England.

I am sorry that we have  
not a good photo of my late  
dear beloved wife. Such as we  
have <sup>however</sup> I will forward to you &  
will also forward you a newspaper



in return for those you kindly  
sent me from Tasmania which  
duly arrived.

Since writing the above my brother  
Samuel & his wife  
has come to spend a few days  
with us at Martock. He tells me  
that his son Herbert has got an  
appointment as Secretary & a Captain  
in the Navy which will allow  
him to be on shore at Portsmouth.

This will be an advantage to him  
& we can only hope that in course  
of time he may recover the use  
of the injured limb.

I must apologise for writing  
so uninteresting a letter but the  
truth is I am a very bad hand  
at letter writing.

With kind regards I remain  
Yours very affectionately

Sam. Benson Walker  
Hobart Tasmania

Ch. Benson

Oct. 31.

P.S. This letter was begun early  
in September & then not completed  
for month afterwards & then I  
have been keeping it until the  
mail goes which will leave  
England on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov.

I have this evening posted a  
newspaper "Illustrated London News" &  
hope to morrow to post this &  
also the Pedigree.

With regard to the Photograph  
of my late beloved wife we have  
not a good one but we send  
you the only one we can spare.

Again apologising for having  
I send such a letter & adding  
again the expression of my  
very very sincere thanks for  
~~kind letter~~ yours the affectionate  
kindness of which I deeply felt.